

wherewith to wrap up all such far-fetched transatlantic idelicacies out of view.—In a brickfield at Sheffield last week, no less than 20,000 newly-made bricks were destroyed by the weather.—A new church, capable of accommodating three hundred persons, is in course of erection at Great Lever, says the *Birmingham Gazette*. The Earl of Bradford has given the land, 1,000*l.* towards the endowment, and 500*l.* towards the erection.—The *Manchester Guardian* gives its readers of last week a somewhat curious illustration of what it calls the 'power of the auctioneer's hammer.' In 'knocking down' some 'substantial building materials' at Salford, 'Mr. Fulllove' had scarcely announced that the floor on which some thirty bidders stood, along with Mr. Fulllove himself in the midst of them, was 'going—gone,' when, 'knocking it down' with his official hammer, away it went, with all and sundry, down indeed, to the floor below, but fortunately, *facile descensu*, only Mr. Fulllove had his knee injured and his garments rent, and Mr. Nelson, a builder, also suffered by the fall of a beam on his thigh. The redoubtable auctioneer, however, proceeded to knock down the other floors as if it were but a portion of his legitimate duty to do what was done, but the bidders prudently stood on *terra firma* till the work was finished.—The catcombs of the Hull General Cemetery Company are to be begun forthwith, on the plans of Mr. Brodrick, in keeping with the entrance lodge now in course of erection, and the proposed chapel. They consist of a series of Gothic arches, forming a colonnade below and a terrace above.—The contractor is making rapid progress with St. Cuthbert's Church and steeple, now being erected at Besham, Gateshead.—It has been resolved to erect a gas-work at Kettle, N. B., to supply the inhabitants of that village and Kettle Bridge with gas. The money has been all subscribed for, and the works will be erected so soon as the necessary arrangements are completed.—The new quays at Lancashire, Glasgow, are in an advanced state of progress. The facing of cut stone is nearly finished, and upwards of a hundred men are employed in cutting away the embankment. The new dock on the other side of the river is a much more extensive work. Two hundred men, according to the *Reformers' Gazette*, are at present at work in sinking it, but it probably will not be finished before three years. Docks were almost the only thing wanting to make Glasgow rank among the first-rate sea-ports.—The Earl of Stair has intimated his intention of giving 1,000*l.* towards the erection of the proposed new pier at Stranraer.—As it is still determined that before the 15th of August all the public works under the Irish Labour-rate Act are to be finally closed, the numbers employed in the meantime are rapidly diminishing, though, in some places, the effect has been greatly to increase the expenditure for out-door relief. The Government mean, at the same time, to dispose with the services of the commissariat department in Ireland.—Preparations are now being made towards the erection of the new college at Belfast. A considerable number of men are engaged in clearing the grounds and arranging the materials for the edifice.

AN ENTERTAINING FIXTICK.—A house-painter and glazier in Edinburgh, having become convinced that he was at the very top of his profession, and could add no more to his stock of knowledge in "Auld Reekie," took it into his head the other day to pay a visit to Italy, and have a personal inspection of the performances of the great Italian painters. Before leaving, he called upon a friend in the high street, and announced his intention in these words:—"I say, Willie, ye ken I am at the head o' house-painting in Embru', and can learn nae mair here, so I am just on my way to visit the painters o' Italy, to see what can be made o' them." Commending his resolution, his friend replied, "Weel, Sandy, I think ye're right, after a'; but when ye are at it, at any rate I would strongly recommend a visit in passing, to the glaziers o' Switzerland."

(GUN CORON.)—Very satisfactory experiments, according to the *Merthyr Guardian*, have been made near Merthyr, with Professor Schönbain's gun cotton, by Messrs. Wheeler and Ringer, for the patentees.

PROTECTION OF STONE WORK FROM ATMOSPHERIC INFLUENCE.

SIR,—Having in the course of the last twenty-seven years, tried various expedients for the preservation of marble and stone from the all-destroying effects of our atmosphere, and finding from experience that stone or marble exposed in the open air may be preserved by being saturated with wax, I take the freedom of inclosing my mode of applying the wax to the stone.

When I first proposed the use of wax as a repellent of moisture, Mr. Decimus Burton, who was architect for the Athenæum Club House, permitted me to apply it to the front of the exterior of the building, which I executed under his direction; the result has been most satisfactory, as the work, which is done in bath stone, can be made perfectly clean by the simple process of washing it with the same mixture which is generally used for cleaning marble. In the year 1828, Mr. Faraday, the eminent chemist, in conjunction with myself, made some experiments, and, to the best of my recollection, the result of the experiments was, that it was as twenty to one in favour of my process.

Noblemen and gentlemen, who are expending large sums in the erection of buildings, would do well to consider this matter, and architects ought to bear in mind, that their future fame depends much on the preservation of their work.

If this should be thought worthy of a place in your useful Journal, I shall feel happy to having it inserted.—Yours obediently,

JAMES HARRISON, Junr.

17, Lower Belgrave-place.

Mode of application of Wax as a preservative of Stone, Marble, &c.—Procure a square sheet-iron case, the sides being penetrated with holes to admit of a current of air; the bottom of the case to be formed of iron bands, similar to those used in fire-places; at each corner of the upper part of the case there should be blocks, also of iron, with a chain of iron to pass over an iron ledge, which is placed between two treasels over the work. When this apparatus is suspended, light a fire in the case, using, in the first instance, wood and coals to light it; then feed the fire with coals till it burns brightly; you may then place it at a proper distance from the marble or stone which is to be impregnated with wax, say 3 inches distant from the sculptured work, and in a few minutes it will heat the stone sufficiently to enable you to apply the wax, which should be done with a hog bristle brush; the wax being previously melted in a pipkin. Care should be taken to keep the works free from dust.

GERMAN CRITICS AND ENGLISH ARTISTS.

THE following remarks by a German art-critic, on the exhibition of the Royal Academy, shew what our neighbours' views of English art are:—"If at Paris Mr. Couture's 'Decline of Rome' has attracted great attention, at London Mr. Huskisson's 'Summer Night's Dream,' deserves the palm. Amongst the sculptures, F. Thirup's 'Girl caressing a dead bird,' is so fine, that one at first would doubt that it is made by an Englishman. But with such few exceptions, the *five thousand* specimens exhibited in London and Paris were little worthy of much praise. In England every one thinks to have ideas of his own, but when brought on either canvas or paper, they look very needy and thin; every thing, in fact, is supposed to improve by varnish and ornament, but instead of turning out *spirituel* (genius), it becomes insipid—if not bizarre and unintelligible. What mass of consumption and vixenly allegories, and—as there is some smack of German romanticism about, what mass of dissolving ghost—and dream-scenes full of mist, and haze, and all sort of dimness! Since the time of Wilkie's 'Blind Fiddler,' a flow of rural scenes has been added thereto, worked out with painful accuracy into the minutest detail; still, some of them approach, still, near reality, and pictures of J. Philip, J. Middleton, W. P. Frith, are full of life and truth. But there is not one historical picture in the hall of Trafalgar-place, not excepting even those three Joan d'Arcs,

and A. Johnston's funeral of Charles I. Conspicuous, however, are the landscapes of Stanfield and some others. Where the English are pre-eminent now, is in their miniature and water-colour painting, especially the former, by Ross, Thornburn, Foster, &c. But even here art strides over nature, detail over a grand ensemble thrown down with a few master-strokes. If we, therefore, combine the progress of art in France and England (to which Italy may be added), we can say that it is very inconceivable. Speaking without prejudice, German art-tendency is now the prevailing—more natural and quiet than the French; more intense (inward) than the Italian; higher, nobler, in the conception, perfecter in execution than the English. If we were called upon to assign a reason for this inferiority of the English, under rather favourable circumstances, as they have arisen of late, we would attribute it to a certain flippancy and want of seriousness, which has taken hold of the nation, and to whom every thing seems to appear in the shape of fun, pun, or caricature. If the latter were ever to become objects of art-exhibition, a great negative quality would then certainly belong to the English arts of design."

RAILWAY JOINTINGS.

THE first trip with Mr. Crampton's six-wheeled engine, the "London," was lately run from Wolverhampton to London, at a speed of a mile a minute, the variations ranging between 56 and 63 seconds each mile. The motion, it is said, was perfectly steady, and a further speed may be expected when the machinery gets more smoothly into play.—It has been happily suggested, that "those who run may read" in railway transit, if the movement be not very bad indeed, by merely sliding a slip of paper or a card along the page pursued, from top to bottom, as each line is scanned, the eye being freed from the vibratory disturbance by the margin of white or other tint being—The broad and narrow gauge forces have been waging war of late with one another, each by turns coming off victorious in the strife. The London and North-Western were defeated in their Cheltenham line; the Great Western won theirs. The broad gauge has been carried from Oxford to Coventry, and so, observes a contemporary, the Gauge Act has been virtually annulled, by a majority, in the Commons of the Great Western party, against the narrow gauge party, *plus* two minorities, past and present, who were left in the minority.—The repair of the new tunnel of the Southampton and Bournemouth line is in progress. The old tunnel is filled up under the post-road, and the sinking is said to have ceased. It is suggested, however, that the solidity of the work ought to be tested by goods traffic alone for some months at least.—Great progress has been made at Birmingham with the Oxford line. The arches, on which it is to be carried into the very centre of the town near to the market hall, are in a very forward state. They "are of an enormous height," says the *Railway Times*, "and tower far above the tops of the houses." They are said, however, to be "of the most substantial description." The extension of the London and North-Western to the same point, is also in a very forward state; both being to be completed at once.—At the Oxford meeting of the British Association last week, Sir Robert Inglis observed "Electricity was working wonders for the benefit and comfort of mankind. In the United States of America, there was no instantaneous communication at 1,000 miles; and when the *Hibernian* steamer lately carried out the intelligence of the death of even in this country to Boston, it was instantaneously conveyed to New York, the streets of which were the next day filled with carts from neighbouring farmers laden with the produce of the country and for English use. It must be recollected (added Sir Robert) that to the United States we were first indebted for the introduction and exercise of the electric telegraph."

SOCIETY OF MASTER CARPENTERS.—This Society celebrated their anniversary at Richmond on Monday last, Mr. Biers, the president, in the chair.